

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 CU-04 OES-07 DHA-05 /089 W
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R 291538Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5756
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A 3 . L I N E 13 . A D D E D)

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS; PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF GDR KULTURBUND

1. GDR CULTURAL FEDERATION (KULTURBUND), UMBRELLA
ORGANIZATION ENCOMPASSING ALL GDR CULTURAL
ORGANIZATIONS, HELD THREE-DAY CONGRESS IN EAST
BERLIN SEPTEMBER 22-24, WITH PROCEEDINGS INDICATING
THAT GDR WILL CONTINUE TO DEMAND STRICT IDEOLOGICAL
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CONFORMITY FROM ALL ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS.
PROGRAM ON EVE OF CONGRESS WAS ATTENDED BY GOVERNMENT
HIERARCHY AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS (APPARENTLY
NO WESTERNERS INVITED), AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
FRONT PAGE REPORT OF PROGRAM MADE PROMINENT MENTION
OF PRESENCE OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND TIED CONGRESS
TO CELEBRATION OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY.

STORY WENT ON TO NAME LONG LIST OF GDR CULTURAL PERSONALITIES IN ATTENDANCE, UNDER HEADLINE THAT THE 580 DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS TOOK AS THEIR CREED, "UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS, TO SHAPE OUR SOCIALIST ORDER AND PAVE THE WAY TO COMMUNISM." ND ALSO CARRIED FULL TEXT OF "SOCIALIST GREETINGS" TO DELEGATES FROM SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SIGNED BY GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER. GREETING OUTLINED FUNCTIONS OF ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS IN GDR SOCIETY: AMONG THEM, TO "FURTHER SOCIALIST PATRIOTISM, PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, LOVE OF OUR SOCIALIST FATHERLAND, AND OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, AND TO EXPOSE THE WAYS OF IMPERIALISM AND ITS REACTIONARY IDEOLOGY." ADDRESS BY VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCE REPRINTED ON INSIDE PAGES OF ND STRESSED CLOSE TIES WITH USSR AND "THE STRENGTHS INHERENT IN SOCIALIST UNITY," ADDING WARNING THAT IMPERIALISTS SEEK TO WEAKEN SOCIALIST CAMP BY PREACHING ABOUT PERSONAL FREEDOM IN THE ARTS.

2. REMAINDER OF CONGRESS FOLLOWED ALONG LINES OUTLINED IN OPENING SESSION AND IN HONECKER GREETING. ND DAILY FRONT PAGE COVERAGE OF SPEECHES AND DEBATES STRESSED THAT ART AND CULTURE MUST BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN HARMONY WITH WORKING CLASS PRINCIPLES, WITH TEXTS OF KEY SPEECHES DELIVERED TO CONGRESS REPRINTED IN FULL SEPTEMBER 23 EMPHASIZING THAT SED PROGRAM AS STATED BY IX PARTY CONGRESS MUST "INSPIRE OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR DEEDS." ADDRESS BY POLITBURO MEMBER KURT HAGER, BESIDES STRESSING OBLIGATION FOR ARTS TO ADHERE TO COMMUNIST DOCTRINE, ATTACKED UNNAMED "GDR WRITER" WHO HAD DEFAMED GDR SOCIETY IN "FRG BOURGEOIS PRESS" AS FALLING SHORT OF COMMUNIST IDEAL. HAGER DECLARED THAT "ONE MUST BE BLIND TO OVERLOOK THE REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN OUR COUNTRY IN THIS EPOCH OF TRANSITION FROM CAPITALISM TO SOCIALISM," AND REMINDED DELEGATES THAT STRENGTH OF COMMUNISM WAS ITS "INDIVISIBILITY." MESSAGE FROM KULTURBUND TO SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF CONGRESS EXPRESSED DELEGATES' "LOYALTY TO THE POLITICS OF THE WORKING CLASS, WHICH SERVES THE CAUSE OF PEACE, SOCIAL PROGRESS, HUMANISM, SOCIALIST PATRIOTISM, AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON

GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WHICH HAVE SUBDUED THE MODEST
EXCITEMENT WHICH EXISTED IN GDR INTELLECTUAL
CIRCLES A YEAR AGO. THE MESSAGE OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE TO THE KULTURBUND CONGRESS IS QUITE
STERN BUT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH EVENTS OF PAST
MONTHS, AND OFFERS NOTHING TO GDR INTELLECTUALS
WHO MIGHT STILL ENTERTAIN HOPES FOR INCREASED
LATITUDE AND A LESS DOCTRINAIRE GOVERNMENT APPROACH
TO ARTS AND CULTURE. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING A
FORUM FOR REGIME TO WARN INTELLECTUALS, CONGRESS
ALSO OCCASION FOR GOVERNMENT TO CLAIM THE VAST
MAJORITY OF INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY REMAINS LOYAL
TO COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES AND TO THE POLICIES
OF THE REGIME, SUGGESTING THAT THOSE WHO DIFFER
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FROM OFFICIAL LINE ARE INSIGNIFICANT MINORITY
OUTSIDE THE MAINSTREAM OF GDR CULTURAL LIFE.
MESSAGE OF HAGER AND OTHERS, MAKES IT CLEAR THAT
"MARXIST LOYAL OPPOSITION" IS A CONTRADICTION
IN TERMS, AND THAT CRITICISM OF ORTHODOXY, FROM

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Message Attributes

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